News Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Editor's note: Chief Acker will be available to speak with the media at 1:30 p.m. today at Central McDougall Station (10539 105 Street).

New chief to lead Edmonton Emergency Medical Services into the future

Edmonton, March 17, 2008 – Responding to the diverse needs of a growing and aging population will continue to be the focus of Edmonton Emergency Medical Services (EMS) under the direction of newly-appointed chief, Joe Acker.

"This is an important time in the story of EMS – paramedics and EMTs are proving their role is critical in the healthcare system and we're looking at new ways to ensure people receive the right care at the right place at the right time," says Acker. "Edmonton EMS is at the forefront of that research and service delivery initiatives and I'm excited to lead our team into the future."

"The people of Edmonton EMS have earned a reputation for their delivery of outstanding patient-centred emergency medical care," says Linda Cochrane, General Manager of Community Services. "I am confident that Chief Acker, together with the talented and dedicated deputy chiefs, will ensure that EMS is well positioned to deal with the impacts of a city experiencing unprecedented growth."

Chief Acker brings close to 20 years of experience in emergency services to his new role. He began his leadership career as Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Spruce Grove, after which he became the Lead Instructor of NAIT's Advanced Care Paramedic Program. Prior to joining the City of Edmonton as a deputy chief in early 2006, Joe held the position of General Manager for the Alberta Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS).

He had most recently been seconded from his deputy chief position to serve as the project manager for the City of Edmonton/Capital Health Joint Strategy and Operations Task Force.

"I am looking forward to spending time on the front lines over the next couple of months to connect with our staff," says Acker. "They are doing an incredible job under some extraordinary circumstances."

- 30 -

About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

For additional information, contact:

Jill McCormick
Public Information Officer
Edmonton EMS
(780) 944-5585

THE CITY OF Edmonton